INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Information Technology (IT) Costs

1. Purpose.   To provide information on how much the Corps spends on IT.

2. Facts.

   a. Problem.   The Commanding General, Deputy Commanding General and other Headquarters' executives frequently hear that "IM costs too much" and then asked the question, "How much do we spend on IT?" This question can be answered easily if information management (IM) and IT costs are properly captured in the Corps' financial management systems; i.e., CEFMS and COEMIS-F&A.

   b. Long Term Solution.   Commanders, Resource Management Officers, and Chiefs of Information Management at all levels must ensure, through leadership and command emphasis, that IM and IT costs are accurately recorded in their appropriate cost accounts. HQUSACE retrieves IM/IT cost information directly from CEFMS (e.g., data mining) to populate a database (e.g., data warehousing) and perform IM/IT program cost analysis and "post" this information on a Corps' **Intranet** webpage accessible by all USACE team members (e.g., data anytime, anywhere to everyone-- vertical and horizontal information sharing).

   c. Interim Solution.   The HQUSACE Directorate of Information Management, working with the Resource Management Directorate, is developing standard IT resource codes to retrieve IM/IT cost data from CEFMS database. The data retrieved will be taken from those cost accounts and resource codes described in ER 37-1-2, Change 87, and loaded into the Information Technology Investment Portfolio System (ITIPS) database. The information contained in ITIPS will be used to analyze and track IT expenditures throughout the Corps and answer questions on how much is the Corps spending on IT.

   d. Future Action. Build a prototype long term solution and implement automatic cyclic requirement without having to make repeated data calls to the field.

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